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# Message Text

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41
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03

NIC-01 /095 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:PCBROWN:SAL
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:WHLUERS
---------- 022506
R 171519Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
SUBJ: AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN SOVIET UNION
REF: STATE 226265
1. EUR/SOV ACTING DIRECTOR LUERS CALLED IN SOVIET PRESS COUNSELOR YEVSTAFYEV NOVEMBER 16 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ISSUES INVOLVING AMERICAN PRESS IN SOVIET UNION. DETAILS FOLLOW VIA MEMCON.

2. LUERS EXPLAINED RESTRICTIONS IMPLIED BY GRANTING C-2 VISA TO TASS CORRESPONDENT ROMANTSOV AND SAID WE WOULD BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER THESE WHEN SOVIETS ACT FAVORABLY ON U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT (USNWR) APPLICATION. YEVSTAFYEV EXPRESSED NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO LIMITS ON ROMANTSOV. ON USNWR, YEVSTAFYEV SAID HIS OFFICE HAD FORWARDED APPLICATION TO MOSCOW LAST JUNE AND THAT HIS REPORTS CONTAINED QUOTE NOTHING NEGATIVE UNQUOTE ABOUT THE MAGAZINE. IN SPITE OF THIS, EMBASSY HAD NO RPT NO WORD FROM MOSCOW ON APPLICATION. YEVSTAFYEV SAID HE AND DOBRYNIN PLAN TO LUNCH NEXT WEEK WITH USNWR OFFICIALS.

3. LUERS RECALLED NOVEMBER 1 AIDE MEMOIRE RE VIOLATION OF
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RIGHTS UNDER CONSULAR CONVENTION AND NOTED OCTOBER 5

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(OGDEN-JOSELOFF-SHAW) AND OCTOBER 9 (CREPEAU) INCIDENTS AS WELL. HE ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF LATTER TWO INCIDENTS.

4. LUERS EXPRESSED OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER RECENT LITGAZ

ATTACK ON LEDDINGTON. SAID THIS TENDS TO EXACERBATE PROBLEM RATHER THAN TO EASE IT. LUERS CALLED ATTACK CONCERTED EFFORT TO CONTROL AND HARASS LEDDINGTON AND HE CALLED ON YEVSTAFYEV TO SEE IF RESTRAINT CAN BE EXERCISED. LUERS SAID IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAVE HAD FORCED DEPARTURE OF A JOURNALIST AND THAT WE HOPE WE ARE NOT GOING TO ENTER THIS ERA AGAIN.

5. YEVSTAFYEV SAID HE WOULD INFORM MFA AND DOBRYNIN BUT THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT CERTAIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WERE GUILTY OF CONCENTRATING ON NEWS OF QUOTE NEGATIVE SENSATION UNQUOTE AND OF QUOTE CREATING UNQUOTE INCIDENTS RATHER THAN SIMPLY REPORTING THEM. HE REPEATED CHARGE THAT ON SEPTEMBER 23, LEDDINGTON HAD TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM MILITIA BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WAS DOING SOMETHING QUOTE NOT DECENT UNQUOTE. YEVSTAFYEV SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND FEELINGS OF LITGAZ EDITORS WHO WERE ANGRY THAT LEDDINGTON HAD ABUSED SOVIET HOSPITALITY AND SLANDERED SOVIET SOCIETY.

6. YEVSTAFYEV SAID HE IS AWARE OF MEASURES UNDERWAY IN MFA TO ENLARGE NUMBER OF PRESS CONFERENCES AND TO FACILITATE INCREASED CONTACT BY CORRESPONDENTS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. BUT HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OF SOVIET OFFICIALS AT ALLEGED FAILURE OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NUMEROUS PRESS CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND TRAVEL ORGANIZED BY MFA. ALSO SAID LIFE OF SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS IN US IS QUOTE NOT PARADISE UNQUOTE, THAT THEY ARE OFTEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN INTERVIEWS OR APPOINTMENTS.

7. YEVSTAFYEV CONCLUDED BY REQUESTING THAT NAME OF JOSEPH NORTH, CORRESPONDENT FOR DAILY WORLD, BE ADDED TO LIST OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ACCREDITED IN SOVIET UNION. KISSINGER

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